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you have made them happy by every domestic endearment; a higher than human destiny has made our interests identical, and interwoven the prosperity of the one State with the prosperity of the other; we are, therefore, placed among the nations in a position to show what national friendships may accomplish, where rivalry is directed to a common good, and where success is equally shared between the rivals.

And shall war be permitted to sever us? Shall battle and bloodshed, conflagration and the sword, be allowed to divide those whom God and mutual interest have made one; and to convert into national enemies, brethren by blood, by race, and by religion? In the name of humanity and civilization, in the name of our common Maker, and of his Holy Faith which both nations profess to believe and practice, we say No! There is no sacrifice of time, of wealth, and of influence, that we would not be ready to make to prevent so dire a catastrophe among mankind—a catastrophe that we believe would more directly tend than any other possible event, to throw the world back into the barbarism of the feudal ages, and to furnish Despotism with a plausible pretext for banishing every form of constitutional government from the face of the earth.

We implore you therefore, brethren, in the name of all that is sacred and valuable among mankind, to employ such methods as your own judgments shall approve, of restraining your Government in any warlike tendency that it may have exhibited; assuring you that we on our part will exert ourselves to the utmost of our power to produce a similar effect upon the Government of the British Crown. We believe that much of the dispute that now imperils the Peace of the two Countries, has arisen in mistake, and not in design; and we further believe that a calm and quiet survey of the question, will even yet lead to a satisfactory solution of every difficulty, and to the removal of every cause of contention and complaint. This we are convinced may best be done by submitting the whole case to the Arbitration of some Power, friendly to both parties; and while such a course would avoid the havoc, the cost, and the disgrace of war, it would tend to make our union firmer than ever, and through our example, to exhibit the superiority of Constitutional Liberty, and of the Christian Faith, to the civilized world. We, therefore, brethren, implore you to exert your utmost influence with the Government of the United States in favor of this method of averting the calamities of war, assuring you, with all solemnity, that we will do the same, to the fullest extent of our power with the Government of Her Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain; and sincerely praying that our mutual efforts may be attended with complete success,

We remain, yours in the bonds of an inseparable national friendship.

PROGRESS IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT BY THE PRESS AND BY STATESMEN.—We quote from several sources encouraging indications of progress in the work by gradually doing away the practice of War, especially as seen in the recommendation of the late Congress at Paris of arbitration in place of the sword.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.—Our readers, says the *London Empire*, will hardly wonder that we, who from the first have so strenuously advocated the doctrine of international arbitration as a substitute for war, should feel something like an emotion of triumph in finding the solemn official recognition of that principle amid the records of the great European Congress lately sitting

at Paris. All parties are agreed as to its value and importance. Mr. Dennison, who moved the Address in the House of Commons, declared his belief, that "it throws around peace an additional bulwark, and sets a land mark in the progress of civilization and humanity." Still more emphatic was the language of Mr. Gladstone: "As to the proposal," he said, "to submit international differences to arbitration, he thought it in itself a great triumph. It is the first time that the representatives of the principal nations of Europe have given an emphatic utterance to sentiments which contain at least a qualified disapproval of a resort to war, and asserted the supremacy of reason, of justice, humanity and religion." The French journals, also, especially the *Journal des Debats*, have engaged in elaborate discussions on the provision contained in Protocol 23, which they all regard as a great step in advance.

True, indeed, that the contracting powers have refused to bind themselves to refer the disputes that may hereafter arise between them to the judgment of a friendly and impartial umpire. But we must remember that the question was almost entirely new to the diplomatic mind; and considering how completely the members of that profession are the slaves of precedent and routine, we cannot but count it an immense gain to have induced them so far to emerge out of the traditional ruts, and to accept, in however modified a form, what Lord Clarendon calls, "the happy innovation." They have recognised, in a solemn and deliberate manner, the principle of a moral reference in the affairs of nations. They have taken arbitration out of the region of abstract speculation, and included it among the recognised resources of practical statesmanship.

We presume there cannot be a doubt that the introduction of this question into the Conference was owing to the presence and exertions in Paris of the deputation from the Peace Conference Committee, to whose visit we alluded in a former number. But we must expect, according to our past experience in such matters, that the long and earnest struggles of the Peace party to press this measure on the attention of Government, will be overlooked and ignored, and that other parties, who have never shared in the conflict, will step in complacently to usurp the laurels. Mr. Dennison did indeed make a generous reference, in connexion with the subject of arbitration, to Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright. Otherwise their names, with those of the men who have been associated with them in this enterprise, have been carefully eschewed. Be it so. It is the common course of events in the world, and we must not repine. We have the purest and best satisfaction in knowing that those great principles founded on reason and right, which were decried and ridiculed as utopian and impracticable but a very short time ago, are being gradually adopted and embodied in the institutions of society. It is a great lesson to us not to despair of the ultimate triumph of moral ideas, however formidable may be the obstacles that beset the path to their final accomplishment.

Nor must we imagine that this consummation is yet fully attained. On the contrary, the clause to which the Plenipotentiaries agreed is still in a very imperfect form, and the friends of peace must look on the concession as only an additional vantage-ground, from which to push forward the claims of justice and humanity, of which they are advocates, to a more complete and secure triumph."

We are gratified and surprised to find even the *London Times* giving utterance to similar views on the subject. After citing the resolution of the Congress, it says:

"Though this be only a principle of common humanity, such as must naturally occur to every ordinary statesman, yet its express recognition by a European Congress gives it more weight, and constitutes the ground of an ap-

peal by every State from any other State that disregards it. It makes all Europe one court of appeal. It gives every weak State a claim to the friendly offices of all its stronger neighbors. Indeed, it is the nearest approach to that system of universal arbitration which some have thought attainable in its rigorous form. The day may come when its value will be more acknowledged, and its form more defined; and the sooner it comes, the better for the happiness of Europe, and the true interests of every State, however powerful and ambitious."

MARITIME LAW.—As with a woman's letter, so is it with the late treaty of Paris. The postscript is the most essential part. The convention, annexed to the treaty which regulates maritime law, is of far greater purport to the general interests of the civilized world, than the introduction of the Ottomans into the family of European States. Henceforth the rights of neutrals are introduced positively and irrevocably into the laws that regulate the intercourse of nations. This convention, however, is only the reproduction of a former one concluded some eighteen months ago between this country and Russia, and to which all other States were invited to become parties, as they are now to the convention of Paris. Louis Napoleon, in conjunction with England, endeavored to assume the merit of inaugurating a new era in maritime jurisdiction, and take the wind out of the sails of our Republic. But our priority stands recorded on the page of history, and we shall not cavil about a small matter like this. We are rejoiced that a great principle of peace, for centuries trodden down, and left at the mercy of the stronger power, has finally received, though in part only, a legal consecration. England, which has hitherto been its decided foe, has finally abandoned her pretensions, unable longer to resist the power of enlightened opinion, and the moral coalition of interests of so many other States. Seas of blood and myriads of wealth might have remained unsquandered, had England been earlier moved to the adoption of this great principle by a sense of equity and justice. More than one war has been waged by England, with no other object than to crush the growing trade and maritime power of some rising neutral. It is a fact which has escaped nearly all historians, but is well known to those behind the scenes of English politics, that the war so furiously waged by England against France in 1793, was not built so much on the hatred of revolutionary principles as on the distinct aim of subduing and destroying the maritime commerce and shipping of neutrals. The parliamentary debates and utterances of the press at that period bear evidence of this feeling, and up to this hour there are found both among public men like Lord Derby, and public organs like the *London Herald*, many who maintain that the recognition of the right of neutrals is contrary to England's most dear and special interests. But the curtain has now fallen; let what is past sleep behind it. What is writ we accept; but it is still incomplete.—*N. Y. Times*, June 12.

PROGRESS IN FORTY YEARS.—Forty years, says the *London Empire*, referring to the late anniversary of the Peace Society, have passed away since a few philanthropic individuals—with minds awake to the inherent sinfulness and cruel inhumanity of war—met together in a little "upper chamber," and originated the London Peace Society; an institution which, although so obscure in its origin, and for a long time so little known to the world, has become one of the great facts of the age, and a most formidable adversary of the military system in this and other countries. We rejoice to know that, if the Society has hitherto failed to inaugurate the reign of universal peace, it has done, and is doing, much towards preparing the way for the advent of that glorious epoch in the history of the human race. True, it was unable to prevent the war which recently plunged five great nations into a sanguinary and barbarous strife. True, it has failed to obtain that diminution of standing

armaments which, in our judgment, is absolutely essential to maintain the peace of the world upon a firm and enduring basis. True, it has not yet succeeded in permeating the public mind with the anti-war spirit. But, if it had done no more than secure the recognition by the Paris Congress of the wisdom and justice of the principle of arbitration, as applied to international disputes, it would not have lived and labored in vain. That was an achievement for which the friends of Peace may well congratulate themselves. The adoption of what has hitherto been regarded as the dogma of "fanatics," and the dream of "visionaries," by statesmen who are identified with the war system, both by profession and practice, is an event which has taken the world greatly by surprise, and which, if rightly followed up, will one day cause Europe to abandon the practice of war, and no longer perpetrate hideous deeds of blood and vengeance. The solemn recognition of the principle of arbitration by the leading statesmen of Europe is, indeed, a solemn condemnation of the war which has just terminated; for there can be no doubt, that if that principle had been fairly and honestly applied when the Eastern question first began to assume a serious complexion, we should have been spared the horrors of that frightful tragedy which has just been played out, and which, without accomplishing one single benefit for any country (least of all Turkey,) has sacrificed the lives of more than half a million of our fellow-creatures, and wasted an incalculable amount of treasure.

It becomes now more than ever the sublime duty of the Peace Society to teach that truth to the people which the people's rulers have, at last, accepted as an element of practical statesmanship. It is the mission of Christianity, far more than of any political or philosophical systems, however excellent or perfect, to redeem the world from guilt and error; and it is chiefly by the diffusion of the loving precepts of that New Testament, which we prize more than all the other books in the world, that those peaceful glories of the new age which blessed the eyes of prophets and apostles, will be realised on this sin-stained and war-cursed earth.

LONDON PEACE SOCIETY.

ITS ANNUAL REPORT AND PROCEEDINGS.

The history of this Society during the past year exhibits so admirable an example of fidelity to principle, and such unflinching devotion to its great work, that we cannot refrain from copying, for the gratification of our readers, nearly the whole of its able and suggestive report:—

The Committee of the Peace Society rejoice in being able to congratulate their friends on the widely altered circumstances in which they meet this year, as compared with the last. With the convictions they entertain of the character of all war, and of the late war in particular, it may be well believed that they hail the cessation of hostilities with feelings of unmingled gladness and gratitude. It is difficult, indeed, to conceive how any Christian man can fail to rejoice when Christendom emerges out of a state where the principles of morality and the laws of Christ are formally repealed and reversed—where all the finest instincts of humanity are habitually outraged, and where the utmost resources of human wisdom and art are systematically employed, not in mitigating the sorrows and promoting the happiness of the race, but in inflicting misery on the largest scale, and in scattering havoc and horror over the face of the earth.